

Amendments to the claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body, the die comprising a structure provided with:

groovy slits formed on a front face thereof, the slits being formed by cell blocks; and

back holes on a back face thereof, each hold being communicatively connected with

the slit,

wherein the number of cell blocks per one side of the die is an even number, and the back holes are disposed at every other position of the cell blocks, and

wherein curved portions are formed at four corners of a peripheral portion of the die and a radius of curvature of the curved portions is 0.5 to 1.5 mm.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 7,

wherein the die is made of hard metal cemented carbide having high abrasion resistance.

10. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 9,

wherein the hard metal cemented carbide is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, a hard metal carbide compound powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having tenacity.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 1,

wherein a thickness of the die is 15 to 30 mm.